NOT-HS-09-126: Notice of Intent to Publish Program Announcement for Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats (CounterACT)/Developmental Projects in Translational Research

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute of Health, intends to issue a Program Announcement with Special Referral Considerations (PAR) in the fall of 2009 to provide support for exploratory and developmental translational research on therapeutics for reducing mortality and morbidity caused by acute exposures to chemical threat agents. Chemical threat agents are toxic chemicals that could be released by a deliberate terrorist attack against civilians, or by accident or natural disaster causing mass casualties. The NIH CounterACT Research Program supports basic, translational, and clinical research aimed at the discovery and/or identification of better therapeutic medical countermeasures against chemical threat agents, and facilitates their movement through the regulatory process (www.ninds.nih.gov/counteract).

CounterACT Exploratory/Developmental Projects in Translational Research (R21) will be utilized to support 1-2 year pilot studies to generate tools and proof-of-principle data for therapeutics to treat exposures to chemical threats. Chemical threats include traditional chemical warfare nerve agents such as sarin and VX, toxic industrial chemicals such as cyanide and chlorine, and toxic agricultural chemicals such as parathion and sodium fluoroacetate. Pilot studies may include the creation and validation of screening assays for therapy development, identification of candidate therapeutics, and development of preliminary proof-of-principle data on the efficacy of candidate therapeutics. Four to six awards are anticipated, each with a direct costs limit of $250,000 per year.

It is anticipated that several other NIH Institutes, including the National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and the National Institute of General
Medical Sciences (NIGMS), may also participate in this funding opportunity announcement.

For more information about this announcement please see NOT-HS-09-126.

If you have any questions regarding this announcement please contact:

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